



# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, MAY 16, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/)

CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

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**SWANSEA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**  
*and*  
**EAST ALTON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ONLINE ENTICEMENT**

Cory Reibel, 23, of Swansea, Ill., pled guilty on May 13, 2011, to an Indictment charging him with two counts of Production of Child Pornography, Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today. Reibel faces a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen years but not more than thirty years and a term of supervised release to follow imprisonment ranging from five years to life. Sentencing is scheduled for August 22, 2011, in East St. Louis, Illinois. Reibel has been in custody since his arraignment on April 12, 2011.

The violations occurred on February 6 and February 19, 2011. At the time, Reibel was living with his girlfriend and his girlfriend's minor 3 year old child in Swansea. On March 5, the victim's mother was going through the e-mails and photographs on the Reibel's cellular phone, when she saw a picture of her minor child's nude genital area. The victim's mother subsequently reported the crime to the Swansea Police Department.

Following an unrelated investigation, on May 13, 2011, Hal Dean McBride, 43, of East Alton, pled guilty to a six-count Superseding Indictment charging Enticement of a Minor; Receipt of Child Pornography; Accessing Child Pornography With Intent to View ("web surfing"); and two counts of Transfer of Obscene Matter to a Minor. Enticement of a Minor is punishable by a ten year to life term of imprisonment; Receipt of Child Pornography is punishable by a five to 20 year term of imprisonment; and the offenses of Accessing Child Pornography With Intent to View and Transferring Obscene Matter to a Minor each carry a term of imprisonment of up to ten years. Sentencing is scheduled for September 7, 2011, in East St. Louis, Illinois. McBride has been in federal custody since February 24, 2011.

A factual stipulation filed at the time of the plea reveals that on July 29, 2010, McBride asked an individual who he believed to be a 14 year old girl, but who was actually an undercover officer, to show and/or send him nude photographs of her genitals. McBride also had online chats of a sexual nature with an undercover officer in Nixa, Missouri, who used the persona of a 13 year old girl. McBride also asked the individual who he believed to be a 13 year old girl to show and/or send him nude pictures of her genitals. On August 19, 2010, McBride downloaded a child pornography video entitled "Tara Gets Molested By A Clown." From approximately November 23, 2009, to August 30, 2010, McBride used his computer to surf for child pornography. On August 11, 2010, he used a web cam to transmit an image of himself masturbating with a sex toy to undercover officers, one posing as a 14 year old girl in St. Louis County, and another posing as a 13 year old girl in Nixa, Missouri.

The Reibel case was investigated by the Swansea Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The McBride case was investigated by the St. Louis County Police Department, the Nixa, Missouri, Police Department, the Alton and East Alton Police Departments, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The cases are being prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott pursuant to the Department of Justice's Project Safe Childhood (PSC) initiative.

"I commend the professionalism and dedication of all of the officers who investigated these deeply disturbing offenses," said United States Attorney Wigginton, who noted that he would have much more to say in court and following the sentencing of these individuals.

PSC is a nationwide effort to address the online sexual exploitation of children, and it includes prosecuting offenders who produce, distribute, and possess child pornography; offenders who use the internet for the purpose of enticing minors to engage in illegal sexual acts; and offenders who cross state lines in violation of sex offender registration requirements.

The *National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction* provides insight into the nature of these offenses:

- The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) data indicates that the vast majority of identified child pornography victims (69% of their data set) were abused/exploited by people familiar to the children. In the NCMEC data set these people included parents, other relatives, neighbors, family, friends, babysitters, coaches, and guardians' partners; only a small fraction of victims (4% of the NCMEC data set) were victimized by individuals with whom the child had no relationship. (p. 21).

- Online predators gradually manipulate or “groom” children until they voluntarily provide sexual images online or agree to meet predators for sex. Grooming typically begins with the selection of a child who exhibits desired behaviors or psychological characteristics such as low self-esteem or family problems. (p. 30).

The *National Strategy for Child Exploitation Prevention and Interdiction* is available at this link: <http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov/docs/natstrategyreport.pdf>.

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United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **BATCHTOWN MAN SENTENCED TO 5 YEARS FOR POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

Zachary G. Friedel, 27, of Batchtown, Ill., received a five year sentence for possession of child pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today

Following release from imprisonment, Friedel will serve a ten year term of supervised release and will be required to register as a sex offender. Friedel was also fined \$750 and was ordered to pay a \$100 special assessment.

Friedel plead guilty to the charges on January 26, 2011. A factual stipulation filed at the time of the plea indicates that Friedel came to the attention of law enforcement as a result of an online undercover investigation. Investigators determined that Friedel was offering child pornography over a peer to peer file sharing network. A search warrant was executed at Friedel's home on April 29, 2010, resulting in the recovery of a laptop containing child pornography videos which Friedel had collected over the internet.

Friedel was remanded to custody following the sentencing hearing, which was held on May 6, 2011.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the United States Secret Service and the Illinois State Police. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

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FRIDAY, MAY 6, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **NEBRASKA MAN ARRESTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES**

A York, Nebraska, man was arrested in Nebraska on May 6, 2011, on a Criminal Complaint filed in the Southern District of Illinois, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today.

Joshua Robert Hoover, 32, of York, Nebraska, was charged by Complaint on May 4, 2011, with Production of Child Pornography and with Commission of a Felony Offense Against a Minor as a Registered Sex Offender.

Count I of the Complaint alleges that Hoover did knowingly persuade, induce, and entice a minor to engage in sexually explicit conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct, knowing and having reason to know that such visual depiction would be transmitted using a means or facility of interstate commerce; the Complaint further alleges that such visual depiction was so transmitted on April 7, 2011. Count II of the Complaint further alleges that Hoover committed the offense charge in Count I while being a person who was required by law to register as a sex offender.

*Individuals charged by Criminal Complaint have the constitutional right to have the case presented to a grand jury to decide whether to return an indictment which is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge and is entitled to a fair trial at which the Government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.*

Hoover appeared in federal district court in Omaha, Nebraska, on May 6, 2011, and was ordered detained pending transfer to the Southern District of Illinois for prosecution.

The penalties that may be imposed, upon conviction, for a violation in Count I are not less than 15 years' imprisonment and not more than 30 years' imprisonment, or a \$250,000 fine, or both; a term of supervised release of five years to life; and a \$100 special assessment. The penalties that

may be imposed, upon conviction, for a violation in Count II are 10 years' imprisonment, consecutive to any sentence imposed for Count I; a term of supervised release of five years to life; and a \$100 special assessment.

The Complaint further alleges that Hoover met a 14-year-old Clinton County girl over the internet and convinced her to send him nude pictures of herself by computer on or about April 7, 2011.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorneys Stephen B. Clark and Nicole Gorovsky. The case is being investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

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FRIDAY, APRIL 29, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **COLUMBIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO ENTICEMENT OF A MINOR**

A Columbia, Ill.- man pled guilty on April 29, 2011, to an Indictment charging him with Enticement of a Minor, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. Roy R. Browne, 29, faces a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years, up to imprisonment life, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life.

Sentencing is scheduled for July 29, 2011, in Federal District Court in East St. Louis. Browne has been detained since his arraignment on March 3, 2011.

"This case should serve as a chilling reminder to parents to educate and warn their children on the dangers of internet usage. Sadly, certain individuals will always seek to victimize children," United States Attorney Wigginton remarked.

The violation took place on February 4, 2011, when the 16 year old victim and his/her<sup>1</sup> mother went to the Columbia, Illinois, Police Department to report that minor victim was receiving text messages from adult who was trying to get the victim to meet him. The person attempting to entice the victim was subsequently identified as Roy Browne. The victim began receiving text

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<sup>1</sup> This language is used in an attempt to prevent the identification and further victimization of the juvenile involved.

messages on February 3, 2011, after accepting Brown as a friend on his/her Facebook page. The victim's cell phone number was on his/her Facebook page. The texts requested a meeting with the victim. The victim explained that he/she was only 16, to which Browne responded, "That's all right. I'm 28 is that fine with you?" The victim told Browne on at least two separate occasions to stop contacting him/her, but Browne persisted, sending text messages such as the following: "I want to meet you! I want us to be friends! Please!"

The victim and his/her mother consented to a police officer using the victim's cellular phone and his/her identity to communicate with Browne. During the text messages between the undercover officer and Browne, a meeting was subsequently set up for that night. The two were supposed to meet in the parking lot of the Columbia Public Library. Browne told the victim that he would engage in oral sex with the victim when they met. When the undercover officer, acting as the victim, repeated that he/she was only 16, Browne replied, "We can see what happens? Want to come over now?"

After the meeting was set, Browne texted the person who he believed to be the victim, and asked if the victim had any friends that would like to join them. The officer, again using the victim's identity, stated that he/she had a 15 year old friend. Browne told the victim that if the 15 year old wanted to join them, he/she could. Browne texted, "I would have fun teaching you how to have 3 way fun." Browne described what he would be wearing to the meeting. He also texted that he planned to have oral sex with both the victim and his/her friend when they met.

When Browne saw who he believed to be the victim and his/her friend in the parking lot, he texted, "I want [the 2 minors] fully naked when I get in the [car]. These are orders from your master." The undercover officers arrested Browne when he approached them in the parking lot. In a voluntary statement given after his arrest, Browne admitted meeting the victim on Facebook, and that he had made plans to meet the victim and his/her 15 year old friend for oral sex.



This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Columbia, Illinois, Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **HOMELESS MAN FROM EDWARDSVILLE SENTENCED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CHARGE**

Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 29, 2011, Gary E. Shields, of Edwardsville, Ill., was sentenced in federal district court in East St. Louis to 120 months' imprisonment, a life term of supervised release, a \$100 special assessment, and a fine of \$500 following his plea of guilty to a one-count Indictment charging him with Possession of Child Pornography.

Shields had been convicted previously of possession of child pornography in Madison County Case No. 07-CF-2322 on October 29, 2007.

In a pleading filed with the Court on January 27, 2011, the United States provided the following facts concerning the case:

Defendant was convicted of possession of child pornography in violation of 720 ILCS, Section 11-20.1(a)(6), on or about October 29, 2007, in Madison County Case No. 07-CF-2322, for which he was sentenced to probation.

Defendant has no permanent address - instead, he owns a truck and a small trailer/mobile home, which he moves around from time to time.

In April, 2010, his truck was parked on an Auto Zone lot near a Blimpie's Restaurant in Madison county for several days. He was observed by a clerk at Blimpie's, who saw him disappear into the rest room with a magazine or book; he stayed there for 45 minutes. He later charged

something to his credit card. He also explained to the clerk that he was convicted of something for which he could not move from state to state. The clerk searched the internet for his name and discovered he was on a sex registry list.

The clerk became aware that Defendant moved his truck onto the Lewis & Clark campus, so she reported him to the police. On April 9, 2010, Edwardsville Police approached Defendant because by virtue of his prior conviction and sex registration, he should not have been on the campus. Defendant admitted to police that he was in possession of child pornography. Defendant gave police consent to search his vehicle; police found a thumb drive in the vehicle. The thumb drive contained numerous images of child pornography depicting children under age 18 (including one video of a child under 12 years old) engaging in sexually explicit activity. The production of each such images of child pornography involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Each of such images of child pornography in fact depicted one or more children under age 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Defendant told police that he had downloaded the images from the internet onto his thumb drive via a netbook that he had purchased at the Jerseyville Walmart. He accessed the internet at the Edwardsville Library. He later returned the computer to the Walmart and got his money back. He retained the images on the thumb drive and he viewed the images from the thumb drive by placing the thumb drive on an electronic picture frame that accommodates thumb drives.

Also discovered in Defendant's possession were numerous writings, in which Defendant expresses his belief that child pornography should be acceptable in society and that sex between adults and children (including the adults' own children) should be acceptable and not illegal.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Stephen B. Clark and was investigated by the Edwardsville Police Department.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **HARTFORD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSES** *Faces Lengthy Federal Sentence*

A Hartford man pled guilty on April 25, 2011, to a two-count Indictment charging, in Count 1, Enticement of a Minor, and, in Count 2, Receipt of Child Pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. Mark A. Reynolds, 49, Hartford, Ill., faces a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years up to life, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life on Count 1 of the Indictment. In addition, because Reynolds is a registered sex offender, he faces a mandatory minimum sentence of ten (10) years' imprisonment to be served consecutively to the sentence he receives on this count. Reynolds faces a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years up to forty (40) years' of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and not less than five years to a lifetime term of supervised release on Count 2 of the Indictment. Sentencing is scheduled for August 8, 2011, in East St. Louis, Illinois. Reynolds has been detained since his arraignment on March 7, 2011.

The violations took place on January 13, 2011, when Reynolds engaged in a sexually explicit chat with a 16 year old female in Massachusetts, and requested pictures of her. When Reynolds asked for the pictures, he knew that he was chatting with a 16 year old. The victim sent him a photo of her nude genitalia that same date. In a videotaped statement, Reynolds acknowledged that the victim he chatted with told him that she was 16 years old. He also admitted that she sent photographs of herself to him, and that he sent her photographs of a nude penis. Reynolds told the officers that the chats occurred while he was at work, and that he used an Air Card to gain access to the internet.

United States Attorney Wigginton affirmed that his office will seek out and prosecute any adult who would prey on children and would steal their innocence from them. "Our civilized society

cannot tolerate such abuses by those adults who should be nurturing and protecting our children.” Wigginton said.

During the investigation, numerous media devices were seized from the Reynolds’ residence, his person, and his vehicle. Two laptop computers, a CD, and an external hard drive contained both images and videos of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. In addition, a search of the external hard drive revealed Reynolds hiding a video camera in his bathroom which secretly recorded his roommate’s 14 year old daughter getting in and out of the shower. After the minor left the bathroom, Reynolds is seen removing the camera from the bathroom. Finally, a review of the defendant’s cell phone records led to the identification of a third victim. This victim, now 18, also lived in Massachusetts. She and Reynolds engaged in sexually explicit conversation, and she sent him nude photographs of herself when she was 17 years old.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys’ Offices and the Criminal Division’s Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Clinton, Massachusetts, Police Department; the North Brookfield, Massachusetts, Police Department; the Madison County Sheriff’s Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

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MONDAY, APRIL 25, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **EAST ALTON SEX OFFENDER PLEADS TO POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

An East Alton sex offender pled guilty on Thursday, April 21, 2011, to possession of child pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today.

The facts of the case were as follows: On Tuesday August 31, 2010, the United States Marshals service and the Illinois Attorney General's Office conducted an operation in Madison County, Illinois to check on all sex offenders in the county to ensure they were in compliance with the sex offender registry. Mark Heppner, who lived in East Alton, Illinois, was one of the registered sex offenders.

While conducting the check on Heppner, the Marshals asked him questions about his computer usage and what might be on his computer. Heppner told the Marshals he believed he may have child pornography. Following a preview of the material on Heppner's computer, agents seized all of the computer equipment from the home.

On September 8, 2010, agents obtained a search warrant in Madison County Illinois to conduct a forensic search on all of the computer media seized from Heppner. Forensic investigation showed that Heppner possessed hundreds of images of minors engaging in sexually explicit activity.

As a registered sex offender, Mark Heppner, faces a 10 - 20 year sentence in prison for being in possession of child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Cybercrimes Task Force, the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and the United States Marshals Service. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 20, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **SWANSEA MAN CHARGED WITH PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

A Swansea man was arraigned in federal court on April 12, 2011, on a two-count Indictment charging him with Production of Child Pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, and St. Clair County State's Attorney, Brendan Kelly, jointly announced today. If convicted, Cory Reibel, 23, of Swansea, Ill., faces a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years but not more than thirty (30) years, and a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life on each count. Reibel's trial is scheduled for June 14, 2011, in Federal Court in East St. Louis. Reibel was ordered detained (held without bond) pending trial.

The violations occurred on or about February 6 and February 19, 2011, when Reibel allegedly took nude photos of a 3 year old engaged in sexually explicit conduct involving the lascivious display of the minor's genital area.

Reibel was initially charged in St. Clair County with Aggravated Child Pornography. United States Attorney Wigginton and the St. Clair County State's Attorney Kelly, in a cooperative effort to ensure that Reibel receives the most just sentence and maximum punishment for his actions, decided that federal prosecution would better accomplish that goal. The St. Clair County State's Attorney's Office therefore agreed to drop its charges against Reibel so that the United States Attorney's Office could proceed with a federal Indictment. Both offices will continue to work together to ensure that individuals who victimize children will receive the harshest penalty provided by law.

*An indictment is merely the method by which federal charges are lodged. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat

the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Swansea Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

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MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **SMITHTON MAN SENTENCED FOR RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

In his ongoing pursuit of adults who prey on children, Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that a Smithton man, convicted of receipt of child pornography, was sentenced to 210 months in federal prison. Joshua Burgard, of Smithton, Illinois, received a 210 month sentence for receipt of child pornography. Following release from imprisonment, Burgard will serve a fifteen year term of supervised release and will be required to register as a sex offender. Burgard was also fined \$1,000, and ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment. Burgard pleaded guilty to the charges on February 18, 2011. USA Wigginton renewed his pledge to use all legal means to combat those adults who would deprive children of their childhood by exploiting them sexually.

*Please note:* Because this case involved minor children, local to this area, no further description of the acts constituting the offenses will be provided in order to protect the privacy of the minors and to assist them in their healing process.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Cybercrimes Task Force. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
MONDAY, MARCH 28, 2011  
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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **HARTFORD MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

A Hartford man pled guilty on March 28, 2011, to an Information charging him with receipt of child pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. Scot J. Baalman, 39, Hartford, Ill., faces a term of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years but not more than twenty (20) years, and a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life. Sentencing is scheduled for July 25, 2011, in East St. Louis. Baalman was detained pending sentencing.

The violation occurred between September 27 and November 2, 2010, when the defendant downloaded visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. The images were discovered after a forensic review was conducted of the defendant's computer which had been turned over to authorities by another person (this person, being a victim, will not be identified further). This person took custody of the computer after finding two (2) close-up photos of a minor's nude pubic area and vagina. Defendant's father told Secret Service agents that the defendant admitted to him that he had taken the photographs of the minor that were discovered by the person. The defendant's computer also contained a large amount of child erotica, many of which involved prepubescent females.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Calhoun County Sheriff's Department and the United States Secret Service. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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Southern District of Illinois

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CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **BELLEVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

A Belleville man pled guilty on March 15, 2011, to a felony charge of receipt of child pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. Thomas M. Smith, 27, of Belleville, Ill., faces a term of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years but not more than twenty (20) years, and a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life. Sentencing is scheduled for June 27, 2011, in East St. Louis, Illinois. Smith was detained pending sentencing.

The violation occurred on October 26, 2010, when a Southwestern Illinois College ("SWIC") Public Safety Officer saw Smith viewing child pornography on a public computer in the school's library. When the Public Safety Officer approached Smith, Smith tried to close the web page that he had been viewing, and also unplugged two MP3 players that were connected to the computer via USB cables. A review of one of the MP3 players contained visual depictions of minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Some of the images appeared to involve prepubescent females, and some involved vaginal penetration. In a voluntary statement, Smith admitted downloading the images described above from a pornographic website via the internet to one of his MP3 players. Smith stated that he accessed the website for about 15 minutes in which time he downloaded a couple hundred photographs of young girls between the ages of 10 and 15 years old.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafefchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafefchildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the SWIC Department of Public Safety, the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 7, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/)

CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **HARTFORD MAN IS CHARGED WITH ENTICEMENT OF A MINOR AND RECEIPT OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

On February 24, 2011, Mark A. Reynolds, 49, of Hartford, Illinois, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Ill.- in a two-count indictment charging him, in Count 1, with Enticement of a Minor, and, in Count 2, with Receipt of Child Pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. The alleged violations took place on January 13, 2011, in Madison County, Illinois.

Trial has been set for May 10, 2011. If convicted of Enticement of a Minor, Reynolds faces a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years up to life, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life. In addition, because Reynolds is a registered sex offender, he faces a mandatory minimum sentence of ten (10) years' imprisonment to be served consecutively to the sentence he receives on Count 1 of the Indictment. If convicted of Receipt of Child Pornography, Reynolds faces a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years up to forty (40) years' of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and not less than five years to a lifetime term of supervised release.

*An indictment is merely the method by which federal charges are lodged. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Madison County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 7, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/)

CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **ST. LOUIS MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION AND TRANSPORTATION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

On February 24, 2011, Daniel Lee Scalf, 31, of St. Louis, Missouri, was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois in a two-count indictment charging him, in Count 1, with Possession of Child Pornography, and, in Count 2, Transportation of Child Pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. According to that indictment, the violations took place on January 26, 2010, and January 25, 2011, in Madison and St. Clair Counties, Illinois.

Trial has been set for April 19, 2011. If convicted of Possession of Child Pornography, Scalf faces a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years up to twenty (20) years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life. If convicted of Transportation of Child Pornography, Scalf faces a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years up to forty (40) years' of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and not less than five years to a lifetime term of supervised release.

*An indictment is merely the method by which federal charges are lodged. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Collinsville, Illinois, Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 4, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/)

CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **COLUMBIA MAN CHARGED WITH ENTICEMENT OF A MINOR**

On February 24, 2011, Roy R. Browne, 28, of Columbia, Ill., was indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. The Indictment charges Browne with Enticement of a Minor. The violation is alleged to have taken place on February 4, 2011, in Monroe County, Illinois.

Trial has been set for May 2, 2011. If convicted, Browne faces a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years nor more than imprisonment life, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life.

*An indictment is merely the method by which federal charges are lodged. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Columbia, Illinois, Police Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# Department of Justice

United States Attorney Stephen R. Wigginton  
Southern District of Illinois

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
March 2, 2011  
[WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/](http://WWW.JUSTICE.GOV/USAO/ILS/)

CONTACT: James L. Porter  
PHONE: (618) 628-3700

## **COLLINSVILLE MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO PRODUCTION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

On March 1, 2011, Steven D. Ballinger, 30, of Collinsville, Ill., pled guilty in Federal District Court in East St. Louis to an Indictment charging him with Production of Child Pornography, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. The violation occurred on July 7, 2006, when Ballinger videotaped himself having sexual intercourse with T.R., who was 13 years old at time. United States Attorney Wigginton noted that he and his office will continue to relentlessly pursue predators taking advantage of children.

The offense carries with it a penalty of a term of imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) years but not more than thirty (30) years, a \$250,000 fine and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life. Sentencing is scheduled for June 10, 2011, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Fairview Heights Police Department and the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

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# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA James L. Porter  
(618) 628-3700

February 25, 2011

## **ACCUSED EAST ALTON CHILD PORNOGRAPHER SET FOR TRIAL**

Hal Dean McBride, 43, of East Alton, Ill., indicted by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis in January, 2011, in a four (4) count indictment charging him with Enticement (Count 1), Receipt of Child Pornography (Count 2), Accessing Child Pornography With Intent to View (Count 3), and Transfer of Obscene Matter to a Minor (Count 4), was formally arraigned on his charges on February 25, 2011, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. The violations took place from on or about November 23, 2009, through on or about August 19, 2010, Madison County, Illinois. McBride's trial is scheduled to begin on April 25, 2011, in East St. Louis, Illinois.

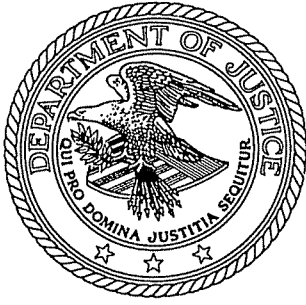
If convicted on Count 1, McBride faces a term of imprisonment of not less than ten (10) years, nor more than imprisonment for his entire life, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of not less than five (5) years to life; on Count 2, a term of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years but no more than 20 years of imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, and a term of supervised release of not less than five (5) years to life; on Count 3, a term of imprisonment of not more than (10) years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a term of supervised release of not less than five (5) years to life; on Count 4, a term of imprisonment of not more than ten (10) years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a term of supervised release of not more than three (3) years.



*An indictment is merely the method by which federal charges are lodged. A defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.*

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafchildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafchildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

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*For Immediate Release*

Public Information Officer

February 9, 2011

FAUSA James L. Porter  
(618) 628-3700

## **GRANITE CITY MAN SENTENCED TO 32 YEARS FOR PRODUCTION AND POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

A Granite City man, convicted of child pornography, was sentenced to 32 years in federal prison on February 8, 2011, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today. Joseph Emil Klug, 30, of Granite City, Ill., received a 32 year sentence for production and possession of child pornography. Following release from imprisonment, Klug will serve a lifetime term of supervised release and will be required to register as a sex offender. Klug was also fined \$2,000, ordered to pay a \$200 special assessment, and ordered to pay \$4,000 in restitution. Klug pleaded guilty to the charges on September 29, 2010. Klug has been in custody since his arraignment on February 18, 2010.

Court filings at the time of the plea show that the FBI executed a search warrant at Klug's Granite City home on November 23, 2009, as a result of a lead generated in another investigation. Klug was present at the time of the search, and he agreed to speak with agents. Klug told FBI agents that he had been struggling with an "addiction" to child pornography for five or six years. Klug indicated that he possessed 80 to over 100 gigabytes of child pornography, with much of it consisting of images of boys aged 8 to 13 engaging in sexually explicit conduct on the computers in his home which he gathered via peer to peer file sharing software via the internet, a facility of interstate commerce. While using peer to peer file sharing software, Klug would share his child pornography collection with others over the internet. Klug also told the FBI that he had surreptitiously filmed minor-aged males in various settings, to include in bathrooms. The investigation revealed that this was often done using a sophisticated video camera secreted in a backpack which Klug could simply set in place for his films.

Forensic examination of the computer equipment recovered from Klug's home revealed that he possessed approximately 59,000 still visual depictions and 12,000 videos of real minors engaging in sexually explicit conduct. Forensic examination also resulted in the recovery of images Klug made by

surreptitiously filming boys showering and using the toilet with a hidden camera. Klug had access to the children by virtue of his participation in a church youth group.

Testimony presented at the sentencing hearing included a summary of online chats that Klug had with other individuals on the internet. In the chats, Klug falsely portrayed himself as a father of a boy, and he would discuss involvement of his fictional child in sexual activities. During these online chats, Klug sought new images of child pornography from the "private collections" of his online chatting partner. In asking for images from a "private collection," Klug was asking for child pornography pictures which would have been created by the online chatting partner. Klug's online chats included providing advice on how to groom children, penetrate them, and avoid getting caught. Evidence produced at sentencing included descriptions of the child pornography possessed by Klug which included still images and movies containing depictions of graphic sexual assaults involving infants and prepubescent children, to include bondage, penetration of prepubescent children by adult males; and bestiality. Klug's conduct included distributing child pornography.

United States Attorney Wigginton noted that, "Child pornography images depict the rape, sexual assault, sexual exploitation, and degradation of children. These are crime scene photos, not mere images of nudity. Sentences imposed over the last month should serve as a warning to anyone who is inclined to victimize the most vulnerable members of our society by possessing, receiving, and manufacturing child pornography. Joseph Klug's 32 year sentence followed the imposition of an eight year one month term of imprisonment on Timothy J. Freeland for possession of child pornography and a 12 year seven month term of imprisonment on Thomas E. Lowery for possession and receipt of child pornography. My office will continue to prosecute these cases with vigor."

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May, 2006, by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

Information for the indictment was obtained in an investigation conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cybercrime Task Force, which includes a Collinsville detective who assisted in the investigation.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Suzanne M. Garrison.

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2011

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA James L. Porter  
(618) 628-3700

## POSSESSOR OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

**TIMOTHY J. FREELAND**, age 23, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, was sentenced to 97 months in the Bureau of Prisons, ten years of supervised release, a \$750 fine, and a \$100 special assessment for Possession of Child Pornography, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today.

According to information revealed at **FREELAND's** change of plea hearing, **FREELAND** possessed over five hundred fifty still images and twenty-two videos containing or depicting child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Cybercrimes Task Force. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
February 4, 2011

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA James L. Porter  
(618) 628-3700

## POSSESSOR OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY SENTENCED TO FEDERAL PRISON

**TIMOTHY J. FREELAND**, age 23, of Fairview Heights, Illinois, was sentenced today to 97 months in the Bureau of Prisons, ten years of supervised release, a \$750 fine, and a \$100 special assessment for Possession of Child Pornography, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, Stephen R. Wigginton, announced today.

According to information revealed at **FREELAND's** change of plea hearing, **FREELAND** possessed over five hundred fifty still images and twenty-two videos containing or depicting child pornography.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigations Cybercrimes Task Force. The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky.

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
January 31, 2011

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA James L. Porter  
(618) 628-3700

Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 31, 2011, ANDREW FLOYD MILLER, age 46, of Chester, Illinois, was convicted of one count of Distribution of Child Pornography, one count of Receipt of Child Pornography, and three counts of Possession of Child Pornography following a jury trial in East St. Louis, Illinois.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and the Department of Homeland Security, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI). The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Nicole E. Gorovsky and Thomas Leggans.

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
January 28, 2011

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA James L. Porter  
(618) 628-3700

## GUILTY PLEA IN POSSESSION OF CHILD PORNOGRAPHY CASE

Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 27, 2011, Gary Shields, age 29, of Edwardsville, Illinois, pled guilty in federal district court, East St. Louis, Illinois, to a one-count Indictment charging him with Possession of Child Pornography, in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B).

The maximum penalties that can be imposed for this violation are 20 years' imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, a supervised release term of life, and a \$100 special assessment. The minimum sentence of imprisonment that can be imposed is ten years. The minimum term of supervised release that can be imposed is five years.

A Memorandum filed with the Court alleges that the factual basis for the plea is as follows:

Defendant was [previously] convicted of possession of child pornography in violation of 720 ILCS, Section 11-20.1(a)(6), on or about October 29, 2007, in Madison County Case No. 07-CF-2322, for which he was sentenced to probation.

Defendant has no permanent address - instead, he owns a truck and a small trailer/mobile home, which he moves around from time to time.

In April, 2010, his truck was parked on an Auto Zone lot near a Blimpie's Restaurant in Madison county for several days. He was observed by a clerk at Blimpie's, who saw him disappear into the rest room with a magazine or book; he stayed there for 45 minutes. He later charged something to his credit card. He also explained to the clerk that he was convicted of something for which he could not move from state to state. The clerk searched the internet for his name and discovered he was on a sex registry list.

The clerk became aware that Defendant moved his truck onto the Lewis & Clark campus, so she reported him to the police. On April 9, 2010, Edwardsville Police approached Defendant because by virtue of his prior conviction and sex registration, he should not have been on the campus. Defendant admitted to police that he was in possession of child pornography. Defendant gave police consent to search his vehicle; police found a thumb drive in the vehicle. The thumb drive contained numerous images of child pornography depicting children under age 18 (including one video of a child under 12 years old) engaging in sexually explicit activity. The production of each such images of child pornography involved the use of a minor engaged in sexually explicit conduct. Each of such images of child pornography in fact depicted one or more children under age 18 engaging in sexually explicit conduct.

Defendant told police that he had downloaded the images from the internet onto his thumb drive via a netbook that he had purchased at the Jerseyville Walmart. He accessed the internet at the Edwardsville Library. He later returned the computer to the Walmart and got his money back. He retained the images on the thumb drive and he viewed the images from the thumb drive by placing the thumb drive on an electronic picture frame that accommodates thumb drives.

Also discovered in Defendant's possession were numerous writings, in which Defendant expresses his belief that child pornography should be acceptable in society and that sex between adults and children (including the adults' own children) should be acceptable and not illegal.

The case was investigated by agents of the Edwardsville Police Department. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Stephen B. Clark.



# CORRECTED NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
January 7, 2011

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA Randy G. Massey  
(618) 628-3700

## **151 MONTH PRISON SENTENCE AND LIFETIME SUPERVISED RELEASE FOR EAST ALTON MAN FOR CHILD PORNOGRAPHY IS THE RESULT OF F.B.I. UNDERCOVER INVESTIGATION OF COMPUTER FILE SHARING PROGRAM**

Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on January 6, 2011, **THOMAS E. LOWERY**, age 63, of East Alton, Illinois, was sentenced in the United States District Court in East St. Louis for Possession of Child Pornography (Count 1), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(4)(B); Receipt of Child Pornography (Count 2), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2252(a)(2); and Possession of Obscene Materials (Count 3), in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 1462. **LOWERY** pled guilty to the three offenses on June 23, 2010. **LOWERY** received 120 months' imprisonment on Count 1, 151 months' imprisonment on Count 2, and 120 months' imprisonment on Count 3, to run concurrently, for a total sentence of 151 months' imprisonment; supervised release of life on Counts 1 and 2 and of 3 years on Count 3, to run concurrently, for a total lifetime term of supervised release; fined \$100 on each count for a total fine of \$300; and ordered to pay a \$300 special assessment.

The violations took place from on or about August 28, 2008, until on or about April 22, 2009, in Madison County, Illinois. The investigation of **LOWERY** began after three separate FBI undercover investigations from August 19, 2008, through November 24, 2008, involving Limewire, revealed that the defendant's IP address was associated with offering files to share that contained images of child pornography. Based on this information, the FBI obtained a federal search warrant for **LOWERY**'s residence. A forensic review of the hard drive of the computer seized from the defendant's bedroom revealed that it contained approximately 4,200 images and 150 video files containing images of child pornography. Many of the images contained prepubescent children who had not yet reached the age of 12. The hard drive also contained approximately 230 images of bestiality involving both adults and children. The video files contained bondage videos as well as videos of adults and/or minors engaged

in sexual acts with animals. Finally, the review of the computer also noted that there were approximately 1,351 files containing child pornography in the defendant's shared folder which was used with file sharing that he would also place these files in his "my pictures" and/or "my videos" folders.

The investigation was conducted by the Federal Bureau of Investigation. The case was handled by Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott.

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
December 21, 2010

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA Randy G. Massey  
(618) 628-3700

## **FREEBURG WOMAN INDICTED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSE**

Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on December 21, 2010, **CHERYL L. GROTH**, 42, of Freeburg, Illinois, was charged by a Federal Grand Jury sitting in East St. Louis, Illinois, in an indictment charging her with receipt of child pornography. The violation is alleged to have taken place on June 13, 2010, in St. Clair County, Illinois. **GROTH** has been ordered detained pending trial, which is currently scheduled for February 22, 2011.

If convicted, **GROTH** faces a term of imprisonment of not less than five (5) years but not more than twenty (20) years, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a term of supervised release of five (5) years to life.

*An indictment is a formal charge against a defendant. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge and is entitled to a fair trial at which the Government must prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.*

This case was brought as part of Project Safe Childhood, a nationwide initiative to combat the growing epidemic of child sexual exploitation and abuse launched in May 2006 by the Department of Justice. Led by United States Attorneys' Offices and the Criminal Division's Child Exploitation and Obscenity Section (CEOS), Project Safe Childhood marshals federal, state and local resources to better locate, apprehend and prosecute individuals who exploit children via the Internet, as well as to identify and rescue victims. For more information about Project Safe Childhood, please visit [www.projectsafechildhood.gov](http://www.projectsafechildhood.gov).

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Metro East Cyber Crimes and Analysis Task Force. The case is assigned to Assistant United States Attorney Angela Scott for prosecution.

# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS

STEPHEN R. WIGGINTON  
UNITED STATES ATTORNEY

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Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208  
402 West Main Street, Benton, Illinois 62812

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For Immediate Release  
December 21, 2010

Public Information Officer  
FAUSA Randy G. Massey  
(618) 628-3700

## **BENTON MAN SENTENCED ON CHILD PORNOGRAPHY OFFENSE**

Stephen R. Wigginton, United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on December 20, 2010, **DANIEL J. WILT**, age 48, of Benton, Illinois, was sentenced in United States District Court to 54 months imprisonment, 10 years of supervised release, and a \$500 fine.

**WILT** had previously pleaded guilty to a one count federal indictment, charging him with possession of child pornography that had been mailed, or shipped or transported in interstate commerce by any means, including by computer.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the United States Secret Service Cyber Crimes Task Force, the Benton Police Department, and the Franklin County Sheriff's Office. This case is part of Project Safe Childhood, in which the United States Attorney's Office, in conjunction with federal and state law enforcement authorities, is actively investigating and prosecuting individuals who produce, distribute, or possess child pornography. Anyone with information concerning the use of the Internet for the purposes of possessing, producing, or trafficking in child pornography is encouraged to contact the United States Secret Service, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or their local police department.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney George A. Norwood.